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AUTHOR TITLE Losak, John; Morris, Cathy

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#### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) to assess the academic performance of students who participated in remedial course work during their first term of enrollment, and to determine the participation rate of remedial-eligible students. The fall 1980 administration of a basic skills test battery found 2,968 of 6,726 first-time-in-college students eligible for remedial reading, 2,770 eligible for remedial writing, and 2,933 eligible for remedial math. More than half of the remedial-eligible students did not take remedial coursework, with the lowest participation rates in math courses and the highest in reading courses. The retention and graduation rates of those students who did not take remedial courses were as high or higher than those of. students who did take remedial courses. At one campus, students' chances of graduating or still being enrolled 3 years after their initial enrollment were markedly improved by not taking a remedial course during their first term. Due to a phase-in policy of mandatory compliance with remedial placement, there was an anticipated and consistent increase between 1980 and 1982 in the percentage of eligible students taking remedial courses during their first term. Based on retention and graduation data, advisors should be alerted that a student's deliberate decision not to enroll in remedial workduring his/her first term may be a beneficial and appropriate choice.



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#### EFFECTS OF STUDENT SELF SELECTION INTO REMEDIAL CLASSES

Research Report No. 83-39

December 1983

John Losak

Cathy Morris

Miami-Dade Community College

OFFICE OF INSITUTIONAL RESEARCH



## Effects of Student Self Selection into Remedial Classes

One of the assumptions related to the requirements for remedial academic work is that students will perform better academically with remediation. To test this pedagogic assumption directly is an extremely difficult process, not because a conceptual framework is particularly abstruse but because the implementation in a practical setting is far from ideal. Nonetheless, the issues can still be addressed as well as possible given the limitations of the design.

Beginning with the Fall Term 1980, students at Miami-Dade were required to write a Basic Skills Assessment Battery and to be placed in remedial courses in reading, writing, and computation if their scores were sufficiently low. The reinstatement of placement testing at Miami-Dade was implemented on a phase-in basis, and because of space limitations as well as instructor availability, it was not expected that all students would be affected. It was assumed that in the ensuing years the policies would be implemented in a more comprehensive fashion as computer locks were installed. As a second issue, the data in this report addressed the question of the extent to which there has been an increase in the number of students who are eligible for remedial work who did take remedial work during their first term of enrollment.

The base population for this study consisted of all first-time-in-college students who were eligible for remedial work based on Basic Skills Assessment Tests, specifically the Comparative Guidance and Placement program for the Fall Term 1980-81. It was necessary to use 1980-81 since the students

have now had three years to graduate. The measure of success was considered to be a combination of continued enrollment at Miami-Dade or graduation.

Therefore, attrition is conversely defined as those not still enrolled or graduated as of September, 1983.

For those students who entered during the Fall Term 1980 and were eligible for remedial work, the data are separated on the basis of their performance on the Reading, Written English Expression, and Computation subtests of the CGP. Tables 1-5 are organized by performance under each of the sub-tests.

It is clear that in each instance, (i.e., for the Reading, the Written English Expression, and the Computation test) of all the students eligible to take remedial coursework, more than half did not take remedial work during the first term of enrollment. The lowest proportion of first term remedial course enrollment occurred for students below the placement score on the Computation test, while the highest enrollment occurred for students below the placement score on the Reading test. This may be surprising to many readers who are aware that the placement criteria did not specify the requirement for reading until the Fall Term 1983. Nonetheless, the language and the implementation was sufficiently clear so that students were inclined to enroll for remedial work. It is possible, of course, that it is more self evident to students that accomplishment in reading is fundamental to their progress in other coursework so that they may be more inclined to seek help through remedial work by taking remedial reading courses.

There is considerable variation in the pattern of enrollment in the remedial courses by campus. For example of the 1,165 students eligible for remedial reading on South Campus, 842 did not take remedial reading their

first term. In contrast, on North Campus of the 1,334 students eligible for remedial reading, 895 did take the course their first term. When examining the measures of success (Tables 1-10), the clear pattern that emerges is that if the students did not take remedial work during the first term, their retention rate is equal to or greater than the graduation and retention rate for the students who did take remedial courses during the first term. This is true across each sub-test for the total college and by each campus. At Medical Center Campus the students' chances of graduating or still being enrolled three years later were markedly improved by not taking a remedial course during the first term.

It is difficult to escape the impression that taking a remedial course for which one is eligible during the first term increases the probability of non-success; certainly the taking of a remedial course does not improve the students' chances for retention. It is important to remember when interpreting the data that many of the students who did not take remedial courses during the first term were those who for a variety of motivational reasons which are indeterminate at this time chose not to enroll. This type of voluntary selection tends often to bias the population so that frequently out of remedial courses are a different group. The best those who opt research design of course is to randomly select and to randomly place like groups of students into remedial and non-remedial efforts and to track their performance over time. Very few studies in the literature have been this rigorous in design, resulting in a limited number of truly experimental designs on the topic of the efficacy of remedial efforts. For an excellent and recent review on this topic see: Chen-Lin C. Kulik, James Kulik & Barbara Shwalb, "College Programs for High-risk and Disadvantaged Students: A Meta-Analysis fo Findings," Review of Educational Research, Fall, 1983.

Of major practical significance for advisement and counseling purposes is the implication that for many students, a deliberate decision not to enroll in remedial work during first term enrollment may be a beneficial decision. At the least, advisors should be alerted that a decision reached by advisor/student deliberations to not enroll in remedial work during the first term, even if the student is eligible on the basis of test scores, may be the most appropriate educational decision for some students.

of students eligible for remedial coursework who enroll for remedial courses during their first term. As should be expected, based on the phase-in policy regarding compliance, there has been a consistent increase in the percentage of eligible students taking remedial courses during the first term. There is still considerable variation by campus as summarized in Table 13. Still, as of the Fall Term 1982, college-wide only 52% of those eligible to take only one course took even that one remedial course during their first term; of those eligible for two remedial courses, 40% took two and of those eligible for 3, 34% took all three. These summary tables will be generated each year so as to provide continuing and updated information regarding the issues addressed in this paper.

College/Wide

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation With and Without First Term Remedial Coursework by Test
First-time-in-College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

7	Eligible fo (N=29	Reading Tes r Remedial		Not Eligible (N=3	for Remedial 758)
			/ <b>*</b>		
	Took Remedial First Term (N=1443)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=1525)		Took Remedial First Term (N=128)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=3630)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	13% 18% 69%	19% 19% 62%	, h.	23% 18% 59%	30% 18% 52%
	Writt	en English Expre	ession Tes	<u>:t</u>	6
	Eligible fo (N=27			Not Eligible (N=	for Remedial 3956)
		Did Not		.	Did Not

Took Remedial

First Term

21% 27%

52%

(N=78)

Take Remedial

29%

18%

53%

First Term

--(N=3878

## Computation Test

Take Remedial

First Term

17%

19%

64%

(N=15.34)

	Eligible fo (N=29	or Remedial 933).	Not Eligible (N	for Remedial =3793)
	Took Remedial First Term (N=1076)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=1857)	 Took Remedial First Term (N=294)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=3499)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	13% 16% 72%	15% 18% 67%	21% 22% 57%	32% 19% 49%

BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM). Data Source:

Office of Institutional Research, October 1983. Prepared by:

Took Remedial

First Term

(N=1236)

15%

19%

66%

Graduated

Attrition

Still Enrolled

## Table 2

#### North Campus

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation
With and Without First Term Remedial Coursework
by Test
First-time-in College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

Reading Test

Eligible for Remedial Not Eligible for Remedial (N=1334)(N=1204)Did Not Did Not Take Remedial Took Remedial Take Remedial Took Remedial First Term First Term First Term (N=1094) First Term... (N=439)(N=i10)(N=895) 29% 17% Graduated 12% 23% 16% Still Enrolled 18% 14% 18% 69% 59% 55% Attrition 70%

Written English Expression Test

	Eligible for (N=119			Not Eligible f (N=134	
	Took Remedial First Term (N=682)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=516)		Took Remedial First Term (N=30)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=1310)
Graduated Still Enrol Attrition	14% led 18% 68%	14% 15% 71%	ation Test	10% 20% • 70%	26% 17% 57%
	Eligible for (N=127	Remedial		Not Eligible f	
	Took Remedial First Term (N=700)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=579)		Took Remedial First\Term (N=218)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=1041)
Graduated Still Enrol Attrition	12% led 15% 73%	12% 17% 71%		24% 23% 53%	30% 16% 54%

Data Source: BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM).



#### South Campus

Table 3

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation
With and Without First Term Remedial Coursework
by Test First-time-in College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

#### Reading Test

,	Eligible for Remedial (N=1165)		 Not Eligible fo (N=224	or Remedial 9)
	ok Remedial irst Term (N=323)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=842)	Took Remedial First Term (N=16)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=2233)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	17% 20% 63%	21% 22% 57%	 25% 19% 56%	30% 18% 52%

#### Written English Expression Test

	Eligible for Remedial ,(N=1118)			Not Eligible for Remedia (N=2296)	
	Took Remedial First Term (N=252)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=866)		Took Remedial First Term (N=37)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=2259)
Graduated Still Enrol Attrition	19% 1ed 22% 59%	19% 22% 59%	`	30% 27% 43%	30% 18% 52%

#### Computation Test

Eligible for Remedial (N=1204)		Not Eligible for Remedial (N=2210)		
·	Took Remedial_ First Term (N=182)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term .(N=1022)	 Took Remedial First Term (N=33)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=2177)
Graduated Still Enrollo Attrition	14% ed 19% 67%	16% 20% 64%	3% 27% 70%	33% 19% 48%

BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM). Data Source:

Prepared by: Office of Institutional Research

#### New World Center Campus

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation
With and Without First Term Remedial Coursework
by Test
First-time-in College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

## Reading Test

	•		<u> </u>	•	
	Eligible for (N=367			Not Eligible for (N=230	
	Took Remedial	Did Not Take Remedial	ď	Took Remedial	Did Not Take Remedial
• <i>6</i>	First Term (N=167)	First Term (N=200)	•	First Term (N=1)	First Term (N=229)
Graduated Still Enroll Attrition	14% ed 14% 72%	19% 16% 65%		100%	25% 22% 53%
		Written Englis	h Expression	Test	
	Eligible for (N=358		\$ .	Not Eligible for (N=239	
· · · / · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Took Remedial First Term (N=243)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=115)		Took Remedial First Term (N=8)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=231)
Graduated Still Enroll Attrition	14% led 16% 70%	16% 14% 70%		25% 63% 12%	28% 19% 53%
Computation Test					
¢ ·	Eligible for (N=33)			Not Eligible f (N=260	
	Took Remedial First Term (N=138)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=199)		Took Remedial First Term (N=31)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=229)

Data Source: BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM)

Prepared by: Office of Institutional Research, October 1983.

17%

15%

68%



Graduated

Attrition

Still Enrolled

10%

13%

77%

16%

16%。

. 68%

29%-

23%

48%

## Medical Center Campus

Three "Year Differential Attrition/Graduation With and Without First Term Remedial Coursework by Test First-time-in College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

## Reading Test

•	Eligible for N=102			Not Eligible for (N=75)	or Remedial
	Took Remedial First Term (N=58)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=44)		Took Remedial First Term (N=1)	Did Not   Take Remedial First Term (N=74)
Graduated Still Enrol Attrition	12% led 21% 67%	25% 23% 52%		100%	36% 26% 38%
	Eligible for (N=96		h Expression	Test Not Eligible f (N=81)	or Remedial

•	(N=96)	
	·	<u> </u>
	Took Remedial First Term (N=59)	Did Not   Take Remedial   First Term   (N=37)
Graduated Still Enroll Attrition	12% ed 29% 5 <u>9</u> %	35% 16% 49%
_		

Not	Eligible for	Remedial
	(N=81)	

•	l
Took Remedial First Term (N=3)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=78)
- 100%	32% 23% 45%

## Computation Test

Eligible	for	Remedial
(N=	=113)	)

	<del></del>
	<u> </u>
ok Remedial	Did Not 'Take Remedial
irst Term (N=56) √	First Term (N=57)
11%	24%
30%	23%
59%	53%
	(N=56) / 11% 30%

Not Eligible for Remedial (N=64)

Took Remedial First Term (N=12)	Did Not Take Remedial First Term (N=52)
25%	42%
25%	16%
50%	42%

BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM) Data Source:

Office of Institutional Research, October 1983. Prepared by:



Table 6
College-Wide

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation by Number of Eligible Remedial Courses Taken First Term First-time-in-College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

ALLES COLUMN	. Number o	f Eligible Co	urses Taken l	First Term
Number of Remedial Courses Eligible for	Three	Two	0ne	None *
Three (N=1462)	· (N=403)	(N=306)	(N=295)	(N=458)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	9% 1 15% 76%	. 7% 17% 76%	10% 16% 74%	11% 20% 69%
`Two (N=1342)		(N=317)	(N=291)	" (N=574)
Graduated Still.Enrolled Attrition	, - -	20%	17% · 19% 64%	<sup>2</sup> 22% 19% 59%
One (N=1601)	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	(N=371)	(N=1062)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition		- 7	22% 18% 60%	26% 18% 56%
None (N=2321)  Graduates  Still Enrolled Attrition		- - - -		(N=2191) 34% 18%

Data Source: BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM).



## Table 7

## North Campus

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation by Number of Eligible Remedial Courses Taken First Term First-time-in-College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

Note of Development	Number of Eligible Courses Taken First Term						
Number of Remedial Courses Eligible for	Three	Two	0ne -	None			
Three (M=721)	(N=274)	(N=188)	(N=124)	(N=135)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	8.4% 15.0% 76.6%	6.9% 18.6% 74.5%	4.8% 8.9% 86.3%	13.3% 17.8% 68.9%			
Two (N=539)		(N=196)	(N=111)	(N=1,23)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	 - 	18.4% 20.9% 60.7%	14.4% 13.5% 72.1%	19.5% 11.4% 69.1%			
One (N=570)		,	, (N=196)	(N=261)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	₽ _ - -	<u>-</u> -	16.3% 17.9% 65.8%	23.0% 17.6% 59.4%			
None (N=708)				(N=607)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition*	- - -	- - -	- -	35.4% 14.7% 49.9%			

Data Source: BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data

added (CM).



Table 8

#### South Campus

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation by Number of Eligible Remedial Courses Taken First Term First-time-in-College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

N. J. a. a. C. D	Number o	f Eligible Cou	rses Taken Fir	st Term
Name of Remedial courses Eligible for	Three	Two	<u> </u>	None
Three (N=458)	(-N=24)	(N=69)	(N-1-19)	(N=246-)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	12.5% 16.7% 70.8%	/5.8% /7.4% /76.8%	11.8% 22.7% 65.5%	10.6% 22.4% 67.0%
<u>Two</u> (N=629)		(N=65)	(N-139)	(N=400)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	- -	21.5% 27.7% 50.8%	18.7% 22.3% 59.0%	21.5% 22.0% 56.5%
One (N=855)			(N=120)	(N=699)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	- - -	. <u>-</u> . <u>-</u>	29.2% 13.3% 57.5%	26.3% 18.2% 55.5%
None (N=1472)				(N=1453)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	- - - ·	- - -	- - -	34.1% 18.5% 47.4%

BSA Validity Study File With enrollment and graduation data added (CM). Data Source:

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Table 9 New World Center Campus

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation by Number of Eligible Remedial Courses Taken First Term First-time-in-College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

Number of Remedial Courses Eligible for		Number of Eligible Courses Taken First Term			
		Three	Two	0ne	None
Three (N=221)		(N=75)	. (N=42)	(N=42)	(N=62)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	0	8.0% 12.0% 80.0%	9.5% 9.5% 81.0%	16.7% 16.7% 66.6%	8.1% 12.9% • 79.0%
<u>Two</u> (N=132)			(N=45)	(N=29)	((e: °2)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition		- - -	22.2% 17.8% 60.0%	20.7% 17.2% 62.1%	20 3% 12.8% 59.0%
<u>One</u> (N=135)		<b>~</b> .		(N=45)	(N=77)
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition		- - -		26.7% 26.7% 46.6%	31.2% 19.5% 49.3%
None (N=109) Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	•	- - -	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		(N=101) 26.7% 21.8% 51.5%

BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM). Data Source:

Office of Institutional Research, October 1983. Prepared by:

Table 10 Medical Center Campus

Three Year Differential Attrition/Graduation by Number of Eligibile Remedial Courses Taken First Term First-time-in-College Students, Fall Term 1980-81

Novel and a Company of the T	Number of	Number of Eligible Courses Taken First Term					
Number of Remedial Courses Eligible for	Three	Two	0ne	None	·		
Three (N=62)	(N=30)	(N=7)	(N=10)	(N=15)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	. 10.0% 23.3% 66.7%	- 28.6% 71.4%	20.0% 30.0% 50.0%	20.0% 20.0% 60.0%			
<u>Two</u> (N=42)		(N=11)	(N=12)	(N=12)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	- - -	18.2% 27.3% .54.5%	8.3% 25.0% 66.7%	58.3% 16.7% 25.0%	•		
One (N=41)			(N=10.0)	(N=25)			
Graduated Still Enrolled Attrition	- - -	- -	10.0% 40.0% 50.0%	40.0% 20.0% 40.0%			
None (N=32) Graduated Still Enrolled	. <u>-</u>	_ 	- - -	(N=30) 43.3% 20.0%	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Attrition	* . = . <del>*</del>	<b>.</b>	-	36.7%			

BSA Validity Study File with enrollment and graduation data added (CM)  $\,$ Data Source:

Office of Institutional Research, October 1983. Prepared by:

Table 11
College-Wide

Tested Students Eligible for and Who Took at Least One Remedial Course Their First Term First-time-in College Students, Fall Terms

Number of Remedial Areas Eligible for	Number in Category	Number Who Took at Least One Course First Term	Percent of Category
Three		1 004	
1980 1981 1982	1,462 1,528 1,428	1,004 1,070 1,148	69 70 80
Тwo			57
1980 1981 1982	1,342 1,323 1,352	768 881 1,013	67 75
<u>One</u>			. 24
1980 1981 1982	1,601 1,544 1,523	539 656 835	34 42 55
None		:	
1980 1981 1982	2,321 2,128 2,020	130 40 19	6 2 1
Total Eligible			•
1980 1981 1982	4,405 4,395 4,303	2,311 2,607 2,996	52 59 70

Data Source: BSA Validity Stuides Files (CM).



Table 12
College-Wide

# Tested Students Eligible for Remedial and Number of Eligible Courses Taken First Term First-time-in College Students, Fall-Terms

			Number	of Elig	jible Cour	ses Take	n First	Term	
		Th	iree		Гwо	C	)ne	None	
	Number of Remedial Courses Eligible for	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Three		n			•			
	1980 (N=1462) 1981 (N=1528) 1982 (N=1428)	403 306 487	28 20 34	306 392 407	21 2 <b>6</b> 28	295 372 254	20 24 18	458 458 280	31 30 20
	Two				ı			•	•
	1980 (N=1342) 1981 (N=1323) 1982 (N=1352)	 - -	- =>	317 387 536	24 29 40	291 432 434	22 33 32	574 442 339 <sub>0</sub> .	43 33 25
ان	<u>One</u>				,		Ì		•
	1980 (N=1601) 1981 (N=1544) 1982 (N=1523)	- · - -	. N. v	· ( ]	- - -	371 589 793	23 38 52	1062 888 688	66 58 45

Data Source: BSA Validity Studies Files (CM).





Tested Students Eligible for Remedial Coursework and Number Who Took Eligible Course First Term by Test by Campus First-time-in College Students, Fall Terms

:			er grande en mende en med som som som en	R	lemedial Ar	eā ,			
	R	eading Test		Writing Test		t*	Co	mputation T	est
Fall Term	Eligible for Remedial	Took Remedial First Term	Percent of Eligible	Eligible · for Remedial	Took Remedial First Term	Percent of Eligible	Eligible for Remedial	Took Remedial First Term	Percent of Eligible
	1			Coll	ege-Wide	÷ .		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · ·
1980 1981 1982	2,968 3,059 3,017	1,443 1,585 1,597	48.6 51.8 52.9	2,770 2,770 2,687	1,236 1,420 1,709	44.6 51.3 63.6	2,933 2,945 2,807	1,076 977 1,605	36.7 33.2 57.2
		<u> </u>		Nort	ch Campus			· · · · ·	
1980 1981 1982	1,334 1,336 1,237	895 692 776	67.1 51.8 62.7	1,198 1,191 1,073	682 458 600	56.9 38.5 55.9	1,279 1,249 1,063	700 315 539	54.7 25.2 58.7
		<del></del> ,		Sout	th Campus		•		
1980 1981 1982	1,165 1,307 1,296	323 667 537	27.7 51.0 41.4	1,118 1,207 1,173	252 711 818	22.5 58.9 69.7	1,204 1,309 1,277	182 469 786	15.1 35.8 61.6
				New World	l Center Ca	mpus	¢		•
1980 1981 1982	367 308 353	167 156 186	45.5 50.6 52.7	358 264 319	243 166 198	67.9 62.9 62.1	337 283 347	138 139 196	40.9 49.1 56.5
		t		Medical	Center Can	npus			
1980 1981 1982	102 108 131	58 70 98	56.8 64.8 74.8	96 108 122	59 85 93	61.5 78.7 76.2	113, 104 120	56 54 84	49.6 50.0 70.0

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Data Source: BSA Validity Studies Files (CM).

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